

PATENT

REMARKS

In the above amendments, claims 1, 3, 8, 16 have been amended, claims 2, 15, 21, and 25-57 have been canceled without prejudice, and new claims 58-78 have been added.

In the Office Action mailed November 3, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1-20 and 22-57 under various art rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103. The Examiner further indicated dependent claim 21 as having allowable subject matter. While not necessarily acquiescing to the aforementioned art rejections, and in the interest of advancing the prosecution of the instant application, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 21 and the intervening claims 2 and 15. Applicants have also amended claims 3, 8, and 16 to change the dependency of these claims. Applicants have further added new apparatus claims 58-78, which correspond to the pending method claims. Applicants respectfully submit that all claims pending are now in condition for allowance.

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CONCLUSION


In light of the amendments contained herein, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance, for which early action is requested.

Please charge any fees or overpayments that may be due with this response to Deposit Account No. 17-0026.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 3, 2005

By:


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